

In the area where the "42" gang formed the present-day members had for their masters the criminal youth of a decade ago. The present-day "42", then in his early teens, esteemed them as "big shots". In the life histories of the present-day "42's" we observe, first, that the boy who has moved into the area as a member of a wholesome family, who has a good school record, is 11 or 12 years of age, and in the 8th grade, picks up with truancy companions who belong in the area, suggest a boy racket, and are the brothers of older, ripened criminals. They form a little gang of four whose boy-rackets become engaging and profitable enough to cause them to desert school altogether. When their theft becomes profitable, they are discovered by four older gangsters to whom they refer as the "older fellows" of the neighborhood, including Vito Pelletieri and Babe Ruth, and are partly hijacked or coerced into subordination to the older fellows and partly lured and attracted by the dress, police prestige, and "grownup" good times of the older fellows.

These older fellows, who formed the tradition and recruited and trained the younger fellows at the same time exploiting them, are to the best recollection of the present-day "42" gang the following list:

Patsy Pargoni

Bank, who was then older than any of the list

Jitty Pargoni

Fat Riccio

Vito Pelletieri

Red Rooney

Red O'Brien

Joe Roberti

John Bolton

Catrina

Pupillo (Monk)
Nick Muscato (Nicodemus)
Louie Cadoodles (De Christoforo)
Pete Gallichio (Mibs)
Frank Gallichio
De Milio brothers (two)
Schiulo brothers (two)
Salvi
Carpanelli (Fat)
Frank De Luca (Chudaback)
Gagiano (Sam)
Joseph Calaro (James Cole, Babe Ruth)

Each of these "older fellows" operated with a small number of the others and would in turn be engaged by others for specific jobs or enterprises. The "smart heads" of this group would seek recruits among the oncoming little boys for a separate little mob with a hideout for loot and would offer them apprenticeship and protection from the police. Within this list are the "smart heads" who are of greater prestige and are leaders of contingents (or mobs). There are also some small boys who started very early. In the "Roll-call" of 1931, given later, the present age of those accounted for in all lists is given and it is obvious that a decade ago the ages of some were in the early teens.

The Gang in Consolidation

The "older boys" of a decade ago given in the preceding list did not have a central hangout but were mutually acquainted from school and neighborhood play, from delinquent activities, from the police station, the reform school, and the jail. When, in 1925, Bonfiglio opened his poolroom on Elburn and Loomis it attracted these and other little "mobs" from around the neighborhood. In their own language--

"This fellow came over and brought his "mob", another fellow brought his neighbor or his brother, but everybody had a racket. Some came in little cliques that had their spots. No one could be called 'head', nor did the "older fellows" in our mob shake them all down because they had their own "mobs" with older and younger fellows. When, about two months later, they moved to Bishop and Taylor to Mary's restaurant the name "42" sprung up. The bunch were all acquainted. I could approach any fellow if there were two or five or twenty, on the outside or on the inside of the place, and ask him to go on a "job". I could say, "I got something good", and tell him my plan and he'd go along to help. An elderly man we all trusted was there. We left our guns with him to keep or our bankroll. Whoever kept stuff there would drop him a 'fin' or a sawbuck (five or ten dollars), if and when he had it. You could sleep there, eat there, anything. You could receive your phone calls there, call up your lawyers. If you were in a jam the lawyer knew that the boys of that mob were good (good credit). The boys would call up a lawyer for the fellow that was "in", and he'd spring a writ or do anything for you. He knew where to find you afterward and that you'd pay if you were of the mob. The boys of the mob would take up collections for lawyers, anyway enough for a writ. All the boys had one lawyer, McDonnell. He would beat any case for us, would do anything for us. He beat one case for me like an angel."

When this concourse of little "mobs" with "smart heads" and "leaders" into Bonfiglio's poolroom occurred, it resulted in a consolidation which emerged under the name "42" gang and had many forces of cohesion. Aside from those functions of the gang hangout which are enumerated above there was the common adversary, the police, or the "law", and mainly there was an intimacy from childhood, mutual confidence, which grew into a mutual code. He could trust anybody in the group. At the time of this consolidation the following were habitual associates in the hangout:

Vito Pelletieri

Babe Ruth (James Calaro, James Cole)

Antonio Marcantonio

Salvi

Sharkey Icola

Louie Pargoni

Patsy Pargoni

Jitty Pargoni

Frank Gallichio

Pete Gallichio (Mibs)

Louie Cadoodle (De Christoforo)

Monteo Gagliano

Tumpa Russo

Catrina (Katsy)

Nick Muscato (Nicodemus)

Joe Muscato (Little Man)

Angi Russo

Joe Leopold

Sambo Lasassa

Joe Pape
Patsy Steffanelli
Chucky Lombardo
James Belmonte
Archie Capozzi
Pet (Two Gun)
Tony Torrisello (Tony John)
Carlo Torrisello
Sam Gincana (Mooney) (Gagiano)
Frank Battaglia ("Duke")
Red Richmond
Max Richmond
Ralph Orlando
Orlando (Johnson)
Orlando (Baba)
Dominic Russo (Dunk)
Tony Benedia (Whitey)
Tony ("Giant")
Dago Ralph
Vito Mascini
Feet
Vito Fosco
Frank De Luca (Chudaback) (De Palma)
George Schiulo
Willy Doody
Pter Nicastro
Fat Riccio
Pushky
Hank Pettito

The hangout did not remain permanently at Bonfiglio's. These centers cannot be permanent because of the reverses from police attack and exploitation. There were subsequent principal centers at Taylor and Bishop, at Taylor and Loomis, at Elburn and Loomis, at Laflin and Taylor, in a restaurant, in a barber shop, in a wash station (for automobiles), in a delicatessen store. Once or twice they returned to an old hangout after a period at a new one.

The principal fences, however, have remained the same. Some of the older boys have gained greater versatility in the disposal of their goods and are not so dependent upon the neighborhood fence. They still deal with the old neighborhood fences occasionally, but the younger boys coming up find a great advantage in the fence in the disposal of any goods for immediate cash.

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Following the history and fate of this gang through more than a decade, we have observed a period of scattered mobs over a limited area, a course to a single center resulting in consolidation, an internal consciousness of solidarity, a public consciousness of the unity and entity of the gang, and a dissolution into little "mobs" again. While at first guess the dissolution or disintegration of the "42" gang would suggest also the eradication of it, on closer observation it has really served to spread the gang tradition into a culture. In dissolution the "originals" seek to recruit new little "mobs". In this process they spread out and in each little "mob" serve to bridge the stage of child delinquency with the stage of ripe professional criminality. When the gang is in consolidation it presents a more formidable front to the upstart wishing access.

After a decade or more of history traced and history observed, from a nascent gang to a consolidated entity and to dissolution, it is well to call the roll of the members and to account for all who have worked, fought, lived, and died in this gang. We now present the roll-call of 1931 beginning with those on the first list, the pre-"42", and continuing through the 1925 list:

Patsy Pargoni appears in the two earlier lists, 1920 and 1925.

He is under sentence for rape at Joliet penitentiary for 25 years.

Hank was an adult in 1920, is now approaching 40 years of age; occasionally seen but of no interest.

Jitty Pargoni - killed by police.

Louis Pargoni would now be about 25 years of age. He therefore does not appear in the first list of a decade or more ago. He appears in the second list as an original "42". He was killed by the police. These three Pargonis are brothers.

- Fat Riocio is alive and well, has had more education than most of the "42's", is now about 26 years of age, tried to present the bold front of the gangster-politician, but does not inspire confidence in his power of "pull and fix". He has the advantage of a rather well-fixed family in the saloon business, now known as the "soft drink parlor". He can go home and live whenever the rackets do not yield a living, which is most of the time.

Vito Pelletieri is now about 25, has always been known as a foremost person in the gang ("smart head"). He is one
~~of the original 42's who were with the gang in 1920~~

of the fortunate members who has been given some opportunity in the illicit liquor operations. He drives a good car. He has always had a contempt for cheap cars. Usually has money. Occasionally he goes on a "job" with groups of the gang.

Ned Rooney was one of the few Irish "originals" belonging to an Irish family left in the neighborhood. He has moved on with his family and is unaccounted for here. No one today knows anything about him.

Red O'Brien moved away with his family, lives in what is known as the Irish "Gold Coast", in the far south side, and is a beer-runner.

Joe Roberti was one of the few Italian "42" gangsters who was given an opportunity in the entourage of the beer-boss politician of the area. He was chauffeur and, therefore, bodyguard for him. He was stabbed to death by a rival in a love affair. His age, at present, had he lived, would be about 23.

John Bolton - To what extent he was a participant in the criminal activities of the original "42's" is not determined. He certainly was a friend and associate, a frequenter of the hangout, a companion and an equal. He is now state representative. His family are the reputed beer distributors and managers in the area which includes the west side "little Italy" and extends farther west. Occasionally he says a good word or does a favor for an "original" in trouble. The Boltons lived in the western end of this area when it was Irish, Jewish, and French, and remained to be the rulers of certain precincts of "little Italy" in politics.

Catrina (Katsy) is at present in jail awaiting trial for the robbery at 818 W. Randolph street, in which a bystander was killed

in the cross-fire between police and the robbers. He is at present 24 years of age, has a long record, and has achieved much publicity.

Pupillo (Monk) is in jail on the "818 rap" with Catrins. He is married to an Irish girl and has a child of 7. He has had opportunity to become "semi-legit" by helping his brother in the management of liquor distilling and liquor distribution. He seems to be unable to discipline himself to a routine of industry, is a casual at any type of crime, "does anything to make a dollar", joins ill-planned and poorly executed criminal enterprises, is often in trouble for which a ^olyal brother suffers because he pays the expense. He also helps him when he is idle or sick. He never was continuous in his gang affiliations. He is an occasional dropper-in.

Nick Muscato is 31 or 32 years of age, has figured prominently in the newspapers as a disciplinarian for the distilling interests of the area. He was even sought or held for the killings of Petitto and Nicastro. He seems to have laid aside childish things and is profitably in the booze racket. He is friendly but not intimate with his old "originals". Served time in Pontiac.

Joe Muscato (Little Man) would now be 23 years of age, was killed this year in an attempt at a blackhand extortion from a monument contractor by the name of Scully, a relative of the Scully who was killed because he was a witness in the Ranier case. His accomplices, De Palma and Woodrick, are in jail awaiting trial.

Louie Cadoodles (De Christoforo) is now 21. He was very young, about 11, when he was listed in the first list among the precursors of the "42" gang, and has been known in major

crime for a decade. He is sober, quiet, and calculating. In his time he has been under police fire and the fire of victims. He is frequently sought by the police. His baptism of fire has left him partly disabled physically. At times he is more prosperous than others. He would gladly accept an opportunity to go into legitimate work, especially training for a trade.

Fete Gallichio (Mibs) married an Italian girl who is disparaged by the gang when measured by the standards of virtue of their Italian background. Engages in any criminal racket, looks prosperous, occasionally helps an "original" in trouble with money contributions, drives a Chrysler 77, has a nice apartment, is well-dressed and is referred to as a "hot shot". In his criminal enterprises he has outgrown the neighborhood gang and associates with "big-timers". He is only seldom seen in the neighborhood. Has always been considered "smart" and one of the best drivers.

Frank Gallichio, though two years the senior of Fete, about 33, has undergone demoralizing influences from the gang point of view. A reputable Italian girl of a decent family refused to marry him unless he reformed. He went to work "a shabola", with the pick and shovel. She married him; he is now unemployed and would like to go "semi-legit" as a beer-driver.

George Schiulo is now in Leavenworth on a long sentence in a postal robbery case.

Salvi - killed in an automobile crash. Would now be 24.

Frank De Luca (Chudaback) (Di Palma) now in jail awaiting trial in the same extortion case in which "Little Man" Joe Muscato was killed.

Gagiano (Sam) (Gincana) in Pontiac for five years, is about 23 years

of age, was sentenced in the same rape case with Patsy Pargoni, is also listed as "Gincana". 23 years of age.

Joseph Calaro (James Cole, Babe Ruth) would be about 4 years of age; while he was never a leader of the entire gang he was a person of the highest prestige in it during the period of consolidation. He was quick and smart in conversation, could talk himself and others out of a pinch, could "fix" the police and for a period made it his business to deal with the police for his immediate little "mob" which he directed through a series of rackets, mainly the stripping of cars, the stealing of trucks and cars, the burglarizing of merchandise. He also was broker and middleman in the disposal of goods to fences. For several years he was active in recruiting and exploiting juvenile accretions to the gang. He was married and maintained a residence on the far south side but stayed in the neighborhood as the criminal operations required. When in the neighborhood he would stop at Vito Pelletieri's house (his life-long companion and partner). He was shot and killed by the police.

Antonio Marcantonio is now 25 years of age, has taken a job as driver of a newspaper truck, is engaged to marry the daughter of a well-to-do Italian in a business in which this young man would have a legitimate and promising outlook. He has gone straight.

Rocco Marcantonio has gone the full way out from boy-rackets to profitable organized rackets to hoodlumism and the pistol racket. He is convinced that crime does not pay and within the last two or three months, in contact with new and wholesome friends, has been making every effort to find work or to get his family to finance his vocational training.

As this is being written he is reported as having gone to work in a shipping room. He, too, has been considerably disabled through gunshot wound and has a disability of the heart. He is 21 years of age.

Sharkey Icola has gone straight on the city payroll under Thompson.

He married an Italian girl who restrains him from gang life. He is 15.

Monte Gaiano is at present 23 years of age. He was an immigrant, speaking very broken English, when he sought admission to the gang then in consolidation (1935). He was reluctantly accepted and at first exploited, but it was he who suggested one of the most profitable and large scale rackets to a certain mob of the gang. It was furnishing stolen autos to bootleggers. Because he was a foreigner he had contacts with "greaseballs", immigrants, who were engaged in the cooking of moonshine and transporting it. At the present time he is a small-time conman, making enough "to keep him going".

Tumpa Russo has money, drives an expensive car, is classified as a burglar rather than a robber, only occasionally picks up his old original cronies when going on a job. Is not liberal with his money in aiding his old friends when in trouble.

Angie Russo in Leavenworth for postal robbery.

Joe Leopold in Leavenworth for postal robbery.

Salvo Lasassa is now 22 years of age, "on the nut", which means that he borrows to live and intersperses this with stickup.

Joe Pape is now 22 years of age, physically disabled through gunshot, has just returned from Wisconsin where he was held in jail after extradition from Illinois for a bank robbery in Wisconsin. His case was nolle prossed. He has beaten numerous big raps. At present he is thinking seriously of

going straight. A year or two ago his attitude was that a career is "making good at what you're doing". He is a bit romantic about his choice of occupation in the "legit" world, but may even succeed on his own conditions because he is a bright fellow.

Patsy Steffanelli would be 21 years of age. While escaping from a police squad after flight in a stolen car he was shot and killed by the patrolman on guard at the Scully residence (the house of this witness in the Ranieri case who was killed is still being guarded).

Chucky Lombardo has just been sentenced from one to life for robbery, is at present 20 years of age.

James Belmont is still on the racket, married in Italy. All whose parents have a substantial living, lives with them, drives an expensive car, but is not considered "big" as a criminal. Is at present 25.

Archie Capozzi is 22 years of age, was sentenced to five years for jewelry robbery in St. Louis.

Two-Gun Pep is 22 years of age, joined the gang while in consolidation. Was a timid recruit who had always worked around printing shops and a newcomer in the neighborhood. With Capozzi is serving the five-year sentence in St. Louis for jewelry robbery.

Carlo Torrisello is 21 years of age and his brother, Tony, known as Tony John are both in jail, awaiting trial on a robbery case. They are in distress half the time, living with their mother.

Frank Battaglia ("Duke") is 26 years of age; married. Is considered queer, "punch-drunk" from beatings by the police. Loomed large in the press last summer when he was reported by the police as having attempted to kill Sergt. Loyendecker, an old

enemy of the gang. This, according to the report, occurred when the squad in a chase cornered "Duke" and his friends in a basement, but ^{when he} "Duke's" gun jammed. He was sentenced to one year in jail for gun-toting in this case, which is on appeal. He is out on bond. Is considered a poor mob partner because he has a mania for fighting with the police.

Red Richmond is 33, (Jewish) brought up in the neighborhood where his father had a tailor shop, in which he did very poorly. He was bothered by the gang in which his sons later became members. The family has moved three miles farther west into the Jewish area, but the boys have remained permanently attached to the "42" gang and daily return to the area. Red's right arm is disabled and atrophied through gunshot wound. Recently he was held in jail for fighting with the police at a wedding. He is "on the nut", borrowing money to live.

Maxie Richmond is the younger brother, following in his footsteps and has about the same status.

Ralph Orlando is in Joliet for rape. "Johnson" Orlando, his brother, is considered feeble-minded but is in Pontiac for robbery. Baba Orlando is also in Pontiac with his brother. Ralph is 26, Johnson 21, and Baba is 18.

Dominic Russo (Dunk) is 27 years of age and in Joliet.

Tony Benedia (Whitey) married an Italian girl who acts as a restraint, is trying to be reformed, drives a laundry truck, is 23 years of age.

Tony ("Giant") just released from Joliet where he served a sentence for robbery. Is 23 years of age.

Dago Ralph came into the "42" gang as an immigrant, therefore the appellation, married the daughter of a respectable and

substantial restaurant keeper in the neighborhood, whose own boys and girls have grown up in wholesomeness, despite the immediate environment. Dago Ralph lives in the big house, a three-story brick, with the restaurant on the main floor, in which the owner's entire family of married and single sons and daughters live (Grossfamille). He has gone straight. He is 23.

Vito Mascini is 21 years of age., has married and is a "legit" truck driver. He has been in big robberies, in one of the biggest he suffered physical disability from a gunshot wound.

Feet is 21 years of age, working "legit" as a radio repair man.

Vito Fosco is 21 years of age, a stickup man, has served in Pontiac and is considerably physically disabled through gunshot wound.

Willy Doody is 27 years old. Has achieved more newspaper headlines than any member of the gang. While being sought for the killing of a Cicero policeman the police charged him with two-score major crimes. He was sentenced to the electric chair for the killing of the policeman in 1929, but is still in the county jail pending appeals. Efforts have been made by his very loyal brother to raise funds among both Irish and Italian racketeers, with some success, for his defense.

Peter Nicastro (The Ape) killed in gang ride. The press reported that it was a disciplinary penalty for hijacking the stills of the neighborhood liquor syndicate. Nick Muscato was sought or held for the murder and later released. The papers erroneously referred to Nick as "Little Man". He was 23 years of age.

Pushky killed by the police; would be 21 years of age.

Hank Pettito taken for gang "ride" last summer at age 17, was driving expensive car and dreaming big dreams of becoming a "big shot". The police and newspapers ascribed the killing to reprisal for hijacking the syndicate stills of the neighborhood boss. Even at his early age he was in the gang long enough to have been an "original". He never knew anything else but the life and ambitions of gangdom.

At the present time the delinquency and crime of the area is much more widespread. There are little "mobs" in every block and sometimes two or three. For the older boys, those of the original "42" gang of 1925, a poolroom conducted by a member of a poolroom family (in the same business for thirty years at different locations as "little Italy" expanded from the river westward) is a principal hangout. This is located in the close vicinity of the headquarters of the beer-boss politician who is himself "an original". Another important contingent of originals hangs out at a public garage. Other individuals, "originals", have recruited younger oncoming gangsters and hang out at "spots" nearest to the homes of their younger group, a drugstore, a grocery, or a delicatessen. The many little "mobs", a third and fourth crop, who are associated with "originals", are credited by the police to the "42" gang and consider themselves "42's". All of these mobs have a speedy intercommunication, a single tradition, a mutual confidence, and a single code.

The Swan Song By The Police

Five years ago next September when the gang was in consolidation, police interviewed by the newspapers described Babe Ruth as the leader and his technique, operation, and leadership of the gang. This police source traces the name "42" to the number of members in the gang which was about 42.

After describing the activities he proclaims the decimation of the gang in the following terms:

"There aren't 42 members now. Police bullets have accounted for several. Others are receiving their mail at the reformatory at Pontiac or the penitentiary at Joliet. Still others have left their life of crime and have become honest bootleggers, but the dozen or more men headed by Babe Ruth are still known as the "42's".

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The Swan Song By The Editorial Writer

In November of 1927 when Babe Ruth succumbed to gunshot wounds from police bullets and Orlando and De Stefano were sentenced for rape an editorial appears, entitled "Gangster's End", from which I take the following quotation:

"This, then, is the record of the "42" gang, -- rapists and thieves. Such gangs constitute one of the great evils of city life. They could be good gangs. Perhaps the fate of their comrades will teach the remaining members of the "42" gang that they are headed in the wrong direction."

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The Swan Song By The Prosecutors

In March of 1928 Solly Goldsmith, 34 years of age, a burglar, was sentenced to life imprisonment on the habitual criminal act by Judge Brothers. The prosecuting attorneys were Samuel Hoffman and Charles J. Mueller. Though Goldsmith has been known to the "42" gang and at one

time or another picked up available "mob" helpers among them, he lived his life a mile and a half east of this area and was much older, about 12 to 15 years older, than these "42's". The prosecutor recalls the sentence of Orlando and De Stefano for rape as well as the long sentence of Patsy Margoni, who was also ascribed to the "42's".

The prosecutors are quoted as follows in a news article with bold headlines "42 GANG IN DEATH STAGE - State's Attorney's Office Says Notorious Band Virtually Disappears": -

"Chicago's '42' gang has virtually passed into oblivion as an organization of young criminals long a moral menace to the city's youth, attaches of the state's attorney's office declared today".